

Sir Cunliffe-Lister, Secretary of State for British Colonies and British Film Advocate will attend the Imperial Economic Conference, Ottawa

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"N. S. F."



THE Midland Free Press, Ont., has been mulcted of \$8.32 by "moving picture artists", so it states in an editorial of important length, in its edition of March 21st, and

headed, "Waiting to be Plucked."

It appears that this paper cashed a cheque for "moving pictures artists", for \$8.32. The address given was New Liskeard and the cheque made payable on a bank at Timmins, but returned "N. S. F."

It appears that a "stranger" appeared in Midland and solicited money from various business people for films to be exhibited in the Midland and Penetang Theatres.

The Midland Free Press advertized the scheme to the extent of \$8.00. Several merchants paid as much as \$45.00 for the benefits they were to receive from the presentation of the pictures in the two named theatres.

The editorial explains that all this happened prior to February 13th, and was accompanied by promises that the "picture taking artists would be at work to-day or to-morrow". Evidently no pictures were either taken or exhibited, and the editorial warns its readers to beware of strangers!

CANADIAN TALKIES

DENNISON THORNTON in "The Mirror", published in Winnipeg, comments upon Canada being silent, as far as film presentation is concerned.

Mr. Thornton states that since Robert Flaherty has been signed by British Gainsborough, who by the way are responsible for that internationally successful film, "Michael and Mary", released in the U. S. by Universal, and in Canada through Regal Films, that Flaherty should be sent over to capture Canada for the screen. We agree with Thornton, a Canada, as he puts it, with the "National tang, flavour, and spirit to it, something more than a mere reflection of bits of prairie, Rocky Mountain

and North country, badly strung together by some incompetent in Toronto."

Again we agree with Thornton, although the agreement is rather hard on our native city; and we wonder just who "the incompetent" is, which the suggester is referring to.

"We need," states Thornton, "a Canadian 'Grass', an 'Iron Horse', a 'Covered Wagon', a 'Cimarron'".

"THE BELLS"

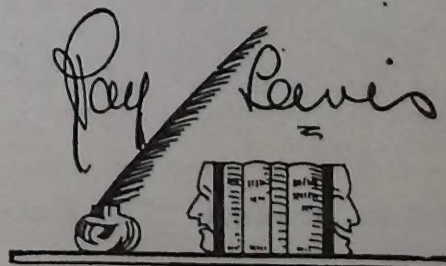
WHILE we are on the subject of Canadian production, we are mindful of Canada's first talking picture effort, produced in Toronto, but certainly not by an "incompetent."

The Booth Canadian Films Ltd., has launched its first "Talkie", with Dickson Kenwin, director of the Canadian Academy of Dramatic Art in a scene from "The Bells". The film was produced almost in its entirety in the main gallery of the Fine Arts Building, where the dramatic director has his studio.

With a limited amount of finance, a rigid economy had to be maintained; and this film is perhaps the least costly, per foot, of any talking film yet produced.

"The Bells" as you recall it, necessitates that the bells of the sleigh of the murdered man shall be heard throughout the tragic finale of the play, in which the murderer re-enacts the tragedy, but having no sound-proof equipment, the real bells failed to register and had to be faked with an ash-tray and a tumbler, so we are told.

George Booth of the Booth Canadian Films Ltd., has for several years been advocating production of films in Canada. He has shown us what he can do under the most unfavorable conditions! All are agreed that the results are most encouraging!



RA



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

AFTER numerous deputations to the Parliament Buildings, Toronto, through the efforts of the Independents mainly, a new amendment to the Amusement Tax Act, provides that tickets costing 25 cents may be exempt from taxation by order of the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. The Hon. E. A. Dunlop, Provincial Treasurer, pointed out in the House that no promises were yet made in this regard. Therefor the Amusement Tax Amendment provides that the Government "may by Order-in-Council, exempt from tax those admissions which are not more than 25 cents." The Hon. E. A. Dunlop further introduced an amendment to the provision for an exemption of Amusements from taxation, where the proceeds were devoted to charitable, patriotic, or philanthropic purposes. The Act will, in these cases, require that the collection of the tax be made; and upon sufficient proof being furnished that 50% of the proceeds went to charity, the tax collected will be refunded.

The maximum tax is increased to 50 cents by another clause in the bill, and the old section of the Act which provides for the exemption of lower price tickets is to be repealed.

The announcement of the amendment, which had at that time, not yet been printed, was the occasion for D. J. Taylor (Progressive North Grey) to exclaim, "I am most pleased to hear this promise that tickets of 25 cents will be exempt." But in reply Mr. Dunlop pointed out that no promise had been made as yet, and that the terms of the amendment were purely discretionary!

Conspicuous in the appeal for an exemption from this tax was Oscar Hanson, who led the crusade of Independents to the citadel of Premier Henry of Ontario.

The genial Premier listened attentively, and although making no promises at the time, he reassured Mr. Hanson and the exhibitors, that, "You have not done any harm by coming up here to-day." The result if favorable, will be another instance wherein it is revealed that there would be no Film Industry, for many reasons, if it were not for the Independents; and that it is through the Independents and not through the Combine, that the public and its Governing Servants are inclined to listen to reasonable proposals.

BERNARD SHAW, prior to leaving South Africa, for his return to England, stated that South Africa should shoot every poor white, and many of the rich whites, for said this famous author, "I have found large numbers of absolutely degenerate people."

Shaw contends that the natives have "better manners"

and are more intelligent than the whites, and that South Africans are in need of more education. He further asserts that they should "bar the Bible, on which they depend too much." No, he did not mention Motion Pictures!

When Tom Mix married the former Mabel Hubbell Ward, star of the circus, three thousand persons, including Mix's ten year old daughter, and Lois Wilson, star of the screen, were present at the wedding, which took place at Yuma, Arizona, in front of the Court House. Tom had previously married his bride in Mexico, but the additional ceremony appeared to be necessary to add validity. Good luck, Tom!

MARGOT ASQUITH has written a biography of King George the Fifth. The Countess of Oxford and Asquith is a brilliant writer, who has had an intimate knowledge of the inner political and social circles of England for half a century.

She has always been a fearless sort of a person, with a sting to her pen, as well as to her tongue. She may have written some good material for a British production.

The last curtain has fallen on a number of prominent theatrical people, or those akin to the screen, during the last month. The memory of the late Mr. George Eastman, famed equally for his philanthropy, his cultural contributions to life and to science, awakens the vista of a motion picture in which the dramatic elements are "stranger than fiction."

Another colorful, if less internationally known figure was Buffalo Child Long Lance, who found his Happy Hunting Ground, in a manner similar to that adopted by Eastman, if for diverse causes!

Chief Buffalo Child Long Lance was the North American Indian which the world best knew. He was the Indian of Romance, of Tepees, of Laughing Waters, of the heroic in the Screen. For in a curious way he typified the moving picture drama in his personality, and in his race! A personality of romance, of thrills, of motion, virility, hero-worship, and wanderlust which is the real spirit of our Screen.

CHAUNCEY OLCOTT, the Irish singer, famous for his ballads, he too, has found his Happy Hunting Ground, making his Grand Exit at his villa Emerald, at Monte Carlo. He began his stage career at 20, appearing on the legitimate stage in plays, in light operas, but always utilizing his voice of song with which to enthrall his audiences.

Then there is May Belle Marks, who twenty-five years

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Universal to produce "The Road Back" by Eric Remarque, of "All Quiet" fame



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The New Film on Broadway

By Betty Ross

"POLLY OF THE CIRCUS," a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production. Directed by Alfred Santell. Starring Marion Davies and Clark Gable.

Margaret Mayo's manuscript of more than a decade ago, which as a stage play once starred Mabel Taliaferro and Mae Marsh in the silent cinema, is a wonderful vehicle for the combined charms and talents of Marion Davies and Clark Gable in the present version of "Polly of the Circus."

As a director Al Santell should be especially commended for the splendid work he managed to get from every member of the cast. Vivacious Marion and the handsome Gable are a winning team. They make an entrancing young couple.

As aerial star of the Big Top, Marion is much incensed over the blue law reformers of the town who object to her pictured figure on the billboards and later heckle her in the audience. So much does she let it affect her that when she has to make her featured aerial leap, she loses her footing and crashes to the ring below. A hospital being too far away, she is carried to the home of the town's young minister, John Hartley, played by Clark Gable. In spite of opposite leanings, youth and proximity develop into a great love between the two. The youthful rector's fanatic uncle, the Bishop, makes a great fuss over the situation and scandal and denunciation fill the town. The minister marries the girl he loves and, although he is still heart and soul in his life-work, he is ejected from his church and pulpit.

Polly pathetically pleads with the Bishop to reinstate John but is coldly refused. Feeling she has messed up his life, she sadly determines upon the only way out to release John. So she makes careful preparation to miss the trapeze and be hurled to her death during her aerial stunt. Thus will John be freed to continue with his holy mission in life.

There is much breath-taking suspense as Polly starts the triple somersault that is to result in her suicide and much discomfort is experienced by the audience before the repentant Bishop and broken-hearted husband get to her and save her life.

"Polly of the Circus" not only has its full quota of thrills, laughs and adventure under the Big Top but brings before the screen two popular young artists, Miss Davies and Mr. Gable in a tender romance. The rest of the cast including Raymond Hatton, C. Aubrey Smith, Maude Eburne and David Landau, as we mentioned above, do inspired work.

East and West Coast Theatres Install Northern Electric

Simultaneously we have received advice from the Beacon Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., and from the Opera House at Windsor, N.S., that they have both installed complete Northern Electric Sound Systems, and from now on will run sound and talking pictures.

New Contract for Joan Crawford

Following her brilliant work as "Flaemmchen" in "Grand Hotel" and on the eve of the start of her new starring picture, "Letty Lynton," Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer recently announced the taking up of Joan Crawford's option for another long term.

British Quota of Films likely to be discussed Imperial Economic Conference, Ottawa

Ray Presents

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ago, as the leading lady of Marks Bros. shows, toured throughout Canada, her stronghold being Ontario. May Belle was considered a great actress, a woman of refinement and culture, who played "hick" towns and often with a cheap-priced show. Although born in the U. S. the late Mrs. Marks made her home in Perth, Ont.

And now to turn from the grave to gay, and who could be gayer than Mary Pickford, who in her gayest of moods told 600 inmates of the workhouse on Welfare Island, New York, that "Everybody goes to bed early in Hollywood, that depression brings out the finer things in life," and that "it is a privilege to be in jail."

To listen to Mary one would almost think that Motion Pictures had not been very good to Mary; and also, incidentally, Mary said that Charlie Chaplin was practically a poor man! Now, really Mary, you know that Chaplin's "Dog's Life", was only a moving picture and Chaplin's real life on the screen has been a veritable "Gold Rush." Mary made the prisoners laugh, and how!

CHEER UP, boys and girls of the Screen, that choicest of words, "lousy" with which we are so familiar, since it so graphically expresses a poor picture, and poor business, is now the word of words, having made its maiden speech in Parliament. Imagine, we now have a "lousy M. P." for it has been ruled by the Hon. T. A. Kidd, Speaker of the Ontario House, that Members may use the word "lousy" providing they are not referring to honorable members of the House, in this instance the word was coupled with "dollars".

Even a Mussolini "can't get away with it," for police reserves were called into action recently to enable actors to finish the Premiere of Benito Mussolini's drama, "Napoleon", at Buenos Aires, when a packed theatre demanded that the play should be stopped. When the play finished, there were calls for "author", accompanied by boos and catcalls; At that Mussolini's "Napoleon" may be good French Drama, written by an Italian Napoleon, who should know The Conquering Hero stuff!

A Complete strike of all amusement and theatrical organizations throughout France and the colonies has been threatened, when Premier Andre Tardieu failed in an effort to compromise in regard to protests made against taxes on entertainments.

The premier conferred with representatives of the theatres, cinemas, concert halls, etc., who demanded abolition of various taxes on threat of closing all amusement houses.

The Premier offered to reduce the theatre taxes, but said the budget would not permit reduction of the cinema taxes. March 29th is the day of days!

